



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 27, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: September 26, 2004
CWP WA-CW3904

Ray of Sunshine for Ongoing Harvests Wine and Juice Grapes Experienced Problems

Field Crops

Early fall showers gave way to drier, warmer temperatures this week. Numerous counties were seeding winter wheat and there was some replanting of rain damaged winter wheat as well. Grant County reported that grain corn harvest was underway. Christmas tree growers continued to report that the recent rains have resulted in improved color in all species.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 5% very poor, 12% poor, 34% fair, and 49% good. Livestock on the westside were not being fed as much supplemental hay due to good pasture growth. In Douglas and Chelan Counties, some producers were beginning to deliver this years calf crop. On the eastside, cattle were beginning to be moved to fall pastures.

Fruits and Vegetables

In Benton County, bunch rot was a problem for some varieties of wine grapes, and losses due to other events were reported in Concord and Niagara grape varieties. Onion harvest throughout much of the Columbia Basin was delayed by sporadic rainfall. U-pick pumpkin growers were preparing fields for u-pick sales in Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties. Apple harvest continued to be in full swing with Golden and some Granny Smiths being harvested. Pears, lima beans, sweet corn, hops, wine and juice grapes continued to be harvested.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.5
Last Week	4.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	20	65	11
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	45	33	0
Subsoil	2	31	66	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	51	37	0
Irrigation Water	0	4	96	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	3	94	0
Hay & Roughage	2	5	86	7

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	100	99	100	100
Winter Wheat Planted	55	48	67	65
Winter Wheat Emerged	33	24	33	39
Winter Wheat Harvested	100	99	100	100
Potatoes Harvested	61	60	54	51
Corn Silage Harvested	48	34	44	43
Corn Grain Harvested	5	N/A	4	2
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	59	50	83	50
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	98	98	98	99

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	2	96	2

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Sweetcorn growers breathed an enormous sigh of relief as sunshine and drier conditions greatly improved harvest conditions. Spring flower bulb growers were working overtime to catch up on bulb planting delayed by weeks of rain. Greenhouse tomato growers were salvaging the last of the crop for this year from plants that were decimated by previous weeks of high humidity and no sunshine. U-Pick pumpkin growers were preparing fields for U-Pick sales slated to begin October 1st. Christmas tree growers continued to report that the recent rains have resulted in improved color in all species. Glowing pumpkin fields, the vibrant colors of vine maples and a chillness in the air were beginning to reflect the nostalgia of the fall season throughout the rural landscape.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Dry weather was a welcome site after the early fall rains. Corn growers were hustling to get their crop in before fields got too wet. Yields were very good where irrigation equipment was adequate. Pastures continued to green up and an extra cutting of silage was being taken from irrigated fields.

Pierce/South King: The conditions remained the same as last week. No unusual situations to report. No report of crop damage due to a weather event. Crops were still about two to three weeks behind schedule in the South Puget Sound area according to local farmers.

Skagit: Spud diggers were rolling again as precipitation lightened up. Harvest was significantly behind schedule and many fields were still too wet for heavy equipment.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: Weather was mild in Skagit,

Island and San Juan Counties. However, due to recent rains in Skagit County the fields have been difficult to get into to harvest potato crops.

Snohomish/North King: Cool foggy mornings and warm afternoons left no doubt that Fall was here. Day time temperatures were slightly lower than normal and there was more rain than normal. Corn and grass silage harvest was wrapping up with good quality and yields. Pastures were growing so well that livestock were not requiring the normal amount of hay usually fed to them this time of year.

Thurston: Ag producers welcomed a week of improved weather conditions. By the end of the week, sunshine and temperatures in the 70's resulted in a flurry of activity as ag producers raced to catch up on a myriad of chores which were delayed by weeks of rain. Pumpkin growers were especially pleased to see the drier field conditions as most will open fields for U-Pick harvest next week. Direct market vegetable growers reported excellent sales of sweet corn and other fall produce. Christmas tree growers continued to inventory fields and remove leader stakes from Noble fir. Adequate soil moisture along with the warmer temperatures have been ideal for the growth of all forage crops. Turfgrass growers were working overtime to keep up with mowing requirements on rapidly growing fields.

Whatcom: A few days of rain this week. The weather cleared up for the fields to dry up so that producers could get into their fields to harvest. Harvest continued for corn silage, potatoes, and apples. There may have been some damage to the potato crop due to the wet conditions the last couple of weeks.

Central

Benton: Harvest continued in wine and juice grapes, apples and hops. Bunch rot became a problem for some varieties of wine grapes. Weather was ideal for harvest.

Benton (2nd Report): Concord and Niagara grapes have been reported with a regional loss of 35 to 40 percent in the valley. Grapes and apple harvest continued.

Grant: Sweet corn and lima bean harvest continued. Onion harvest was delayed by sporadic rainfall. Grain corn harvest was underway. Seventy percent of the fourth cutting of alfalfa had been cut. Ninety nine percent of alfalfa seed was harvested. Pear harvest continued. Golden delicious and

some Granny Smith harvest was underway. Some apple harvest was delayed by sporadic rainfall.

Kittitas: Second cutting of timothy continued on a few fields. Hay growers were still seeding in places. Most new stands of timothy were emerging and growing. Cattle producers were starting to think about weaning.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from five degrees below normal to ten degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was nearly completed and was emerging well and looking good.

Adams (2nd report): There were reports of improving range conditions with adequate rains to start annual grasses, a change from the past few years. Other activities in the area included dryland producers completing reseeding on limited areas that failed to emerge, potato digging, onion lifting, and some final cutting of alfalfa and baling.

Asotin/Garfield: Warm dry weather returned this week. Producers with 2004 grain crops should finish their harvest soon. Planting of winter wheat progressed rapidly. The moisture earlier in the month should allow for good control of cheatgrass, goatgrass and other weeds prior to seeding. Most areas had good moisture in the summer fallow for seeding. More rain is needed for recrop situations. Pasture and rangeland started showing some green growth due to the earlier rains.

Douglas/Chelan: Golden apples were being harvested. Replanting of rain damaged winter wheat (due to rain) was completed. Some producers were beginning the delivery of this years calf crop. Cows were being moved to fall pastures.

Ferry/Okanogan: Apple harvest was in full swing. Golden apples were being harvested. Most of the third cutting of alfalfa was up. Some was still in the windrow due to some light rains. Cattle were beginning to be moved to fall pastures.

Franklin: Normal conditions throughout the week with no abnormal weather patterns. Harvest continued for typical crops. Most of third cutting alfalfa hay was up and a fourth cutting was taking place at the south end of the county. Timothy cutting in the north end of the county had some rainfall. Potatoes continued harvest and field corn harvest began.

Lincoln: Winter wheat seeding was in full force.

Lincoln (2nd report): Winter wheat seeding continued in some parts of the county which included some reseeding. Discing, chiseling, and other fall work was also being done.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of drying out helped move fall work along. There were a number of fields being seeded to winter wheat this weekend. A couple of growers finished up grain harvest. Also, the last of the third cutting was being cut and baled. Pasture conditions improved significantly from the rain in the last month.

Stevens: A break in the rains allowed hay producers to swath third cutting. Grain producers that were waiting for dry weather resumed harvesting.

Walla Walla: Fall work was in full swing. Much of the deep furrow seeding was complete. Fall burns of stubble followed by no-till seeding was well underway. Weather conditions were favorable for fall work. The few farmers with crop on mountain grounds were finishing up with harvest.

Whitman: Summer made a return visit to the Palouse just in time for fall work. Tractors with fertilizer rigs and drills were crawling all up and down the hills putting in the 2005 winter wheat crop. Another week of warm weather should help many operations finish out fall seeding.

Whitman (2nd Report): The temperatures warmed as the week progressed. Fall farm work was progressing throughout the county. Farmers may need to make additional applications of herbicides to control volunteer plants and weeds.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time.

Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>

Weekly Weather Statistics

September 27, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	39	65	54	-2	31	-10	0	-2	0.40	-0.11	3	3.81	2.16	231	16
Everett	46	65	56	-1	42	-3	0	-4	0.19	-0.37	4	2.10	0.25	114	16
Hoquiam	43	68	56	-4	41	-21	0	-12	0.11	-0.78	3	4.04	1.28	146	17
Kelso	42	72	57	-2	51	-9	0	-12	0.00	-0.61	0	1.36	-0.68	67	7
Olympia	39	71	56	-1	42	0	1	-1	0.11	-0.49	2	3.86	1.93	200	15
Sea-Tac	47	67	57	-3	51	-9	0	-9	0.16	-0.33	2	2.83	1.21	175	14
Shelton	40	72	57	-2	51	-5	2	-8	0.15	-0.59	2	3.59	1.31	157	14
Tacoma	41	68	55	-3	41	-12	1	-6	0.01	-0.48	1	2.56	0.89	153	14
Vancouver	44	75	60	3	73	16	13	3	0.01	-0.48	1	1.68	-0.04	98	11
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	41	83	61	7	82	38	18	9	0.01	-0.07	1	0.42	-0.03	93	9
Stampede Pass	40	71	54	8	33	21	3	3	0.18	-0.73	2	6.99	4.07	239	16
Wenatchee	46	81	61	2	82	10	19	-3	0.04	-0.03	1	0.35	0.00	100	8
Yakima AP	35	83	59	2	64	7	10	-5	0.00	-0.07	0	0.15	-0.20	43	3
NORTHEAST															
Colville	32	84	57	4	48	11	6	-1	0.02	-0.22	1	1.61	0.61	161	9
Deer Park	28	79	54	-3	32	-14	0	-11	0.00	-0.21	0	1.33	0.55	171	10
Spokane AP	36	78	57	2	52	5	8	-3	0.15	0.01	2	0.55	-0.09	86	8
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	45	83	61	-1	75	-3	15	-10	0.01	-0.06	1	0.19	-0.13	59	5
Moses Lake	39	84	59	-3	66	-12	11	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	0.12	-0.20	38	3
Quincy	38	83	59	0	63	0	10	-8	0.00	-0.07	0	0.06	-0.33	15	1
Ritzville	34	82	56	-2	47	-4	9	-3	0.00	-0.14	0	0.40	-0.09	82	5
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	41	83	63	-2	92	-8	24	-16	0.01	-0.06	1	0.21	-0.09	70	4
Pasco	37	85	61	-1	78	0	16	-9	0.00	-0.07	0	0.16	-0.15	52	3
Pullman	34	80	57	2	55	10	9	-1	0.02	-0.26	2	0.36	-0.49	42	7
Whitman Miss.	37	83	58	-1	58	-2	5	-11	0.04	-0.15	2	0.29	-0.28	51	6
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	37	75	55	-3	39	-15	2	-11	0.11	-0.17	1	1.75	0.71	168	9
Lewiston ID	45	83	63	3	90	13	26	-1	0.02	-0.13	2	0.33	-0.33	50	9

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2004: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.